



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chairwoman Betty T. Yee

1st District – San Francisco

Ramon J. Hirsig
Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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**Contact: NR 59-08-Y
Anita Gore
916-327-8988**

Betty T. Yee Announces April California Gasoline Consumption Data

Gasoline Data Continues to Show Downward Trend from Previous Year; Diesel Also Down

Betty T. Yee, Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Equalization (BOE), today released gasoline consumption figures for April 2008 that show a continuing downward trend. Californians used 2.2 percent less gasoline in April than they did a year ago.

Total gallons of gasoline used were 28.2 million fewer in April this year over last. A month to month comparison shows that in April 2008 Californians used 52.0 million gallons, 4.0 percent less gasoline than in March 2008.

The average California gas price at the pump rose from \$3.61 per gallon in March to \$3.85 in April, and was 15 percent above the average price of April 2007. The BOE estimates that nearly twice as much sales tax is generated annually by higher gasoline prices than five years ago. Those higher prices generated approximately \$3.6 billion in sales tax during 2007 when the average price was \$3.12. In contrast, 2003's gasoline sales generated \$2.1 billion when the average pump price was \$1.88.

April diesel fuel sold for use on California roads was 7.8 percent below that of April 2007. The decreased consumption reflects both the impacts of higher diesel prices and the slowing economy, which is associated with less freight movement on California roads and highways. California diesel prices were up 43 percent compared to April of 2007.

The BOE is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors. Figures for May 2008 are scheduled to be available near the end of August. All monthly, quarterly, and annual figures can be viewed on the BOE website at: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm>

Taxable Gasoline Gallons: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF%2010%20Year%20Report.pdf>

Taxable Diesel Gallons: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel%2010%20Year%20Report.pdf>

Vice Chairwoman Betty T. Yee was elected to her post in November 2006. Her district includes many of California's coastal counties, from Del Norte to Santa Barbara, and includes the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

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